

WABASH HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION
Meeting minutes - January 9, 2002
Indiana Government Center South, Conference Rooms 4 & 5
Indianapolis, IN

Members present

Allen County-Ron James
Cass County-Janet Fawley
DNR-Steve Morris
Fountain County-Ron Howard
Gibson County-Sherrell Marginet
Huntington County-Mike Mettler (alternate)
Knox County-Tracy Newberry
Miami County-Ken Einselen
Parke County-John Isaacs
Posey County-Tom Straw
Sullivan County-John Gettinger
Tippecanoe-Norman (Lucky) Neiburger
Vermillion County-Mike Craig
Vigo County-Keith Ruble (alternate)
Warren County-Louise Jewell
DOC Tourism-Marianna Weinzapfel
IDEM-Matt Jarvis
INDOT-John Leckie

Proxies

Adams County-Norman Neiburger
Jay County-Norman Neiburger

Members not present

Carroll County
Gibson County
Wabash County
Wells County
Div. of Historic Preservation & Archeology

Visitors Present

David Mobley-Vigo County
Bernie Dahl-Banks of the Wabash
Carolyn Howard-Fountain County
Dan McCain-Delphi Historic Trails & Canal
Rory Robinson-National Park Service
Jane Marginet-Gibson County
Don Jewell-Warren County
Doug DeHoff-Vigo County
Jill Reinhart-IDEM

DNR Staff Present

Dale Brier-DNR Outdoor Recreation
Cynthia Webb-DNR Outdoor Recreation

CALL TO ORDER

President Lucky Neiburger called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. All attendees present introduced themselves. New representatives were introduced: Sherrell Marginet from Gibson County, Mike Craig from Vermillion County, Louise Jewell from Warren County, Tom Straw from Posey County, and Michael Mettler from Huntington County. Steve Morris passed out newcomer packets for each of the new members.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF November 7, 2001 MEETING MINUTES

John Isaacs motioned to approve the minutes as written. John Gettinger seconded. Motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Lucky stated the commission will begin interviewing for the executive director position. A location for the office of executive director still needs to be found. Places for an office were mentioned: Gibson County, Fountain County and Covington. Anybody knowing of a location for an office should contact Lucky Neiburger.

COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT

Steve Morris reported a balance of \$469.19 in the commission's operating fund from 1997. The balance for 2001-2002 funds is \$67,320.28 which includes a balance of \$7,570.28 for commission operating expenses and \$59,750 for executive director expenses.

BANKS OF WABASH REPORT

Bernie Dahl reported that the BOW newsletter will be coming out and he will get the new members on the mailing list. The Eagle Days event is February 2nd & 3rd at Cayuga, Indiana.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff person work plan committee

Ron James read the draft performance plan for the executive director. There are six benchmarks that coincide with the position description. Copies were made of the performance plan and handed out to commission members. Tom Straw recommended including a benchmark for grant research and grant writing.

Executive director search

The committee met earlier in the day before the regular commission meeting. There were 15 to 20 resumes reviewed. The committee members narrowed the list to 5 people. The last 5 will be finalized by telephone interview.

Corridor Management Plan Committee

Rory Robinson passed out the WHRC Management Plan. Janet Fawley made a motion to adopt the proposal for updating the corridor management plan, and Ron Howard seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. Mike Mettler will coordinate the northern section of the Wabash River corridor, John Gettinger will coordinate the southern section and Lucky Neiburger and Janet Fawley will coordinate the central section.

Motion to change commission meeting dates

At the November 7th meeting Nancy Grenard made the motion to change the established meeting date of the meetings from the first Wednesday of the month to the second. Because this would change the by-laws, the motion was tabled and was to be voted on in the January meeting. The motion was reintroduced and amended so as to take effect beginning with the July commission meeting. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS (continued)

Other items

Steve Morris reported not receiving appointment resolutions from the counties of Allen, Cass, Gibson, Tippecanoe, Wabash and Wells.

Janet Fawley mentioned the letter that was to be written to the legislators about the Build Indiana grant funds. Ron James prepared a rough draft and sent it to Lucky. Lucky did not recall receiving the rough draft.

BREAK/SPEAKER

Jill Reinhart, Section Chief for IDEM Watershed Management was the guest speaker. Jill explained what her section of IDEM does and detailed various programs that could provide assistance to communities within the Wabash River watershed.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission officer elections

Marianna Weinzapfel and Janet Fawley and Lucky Nieburger were appointed to a nominating committee. At the next meeting, there will be election for president and vice-president of the commission.

Suggestions for future speakers

Mike Mettler has arranged a guest speaker for the March meeting. Mike Hoover with the Department of Health is going to speak about campground regulations with relation to canoe access camps.

Future speakers suggested included new DNR Director, John Goss or perhaps someone from the Natural Resources Commission. Jane Hardesty was also suggested as a future speaker.

Letters sent/Letters received

Wabash County sent a new calendar of events.

Dan McCain sent a brochure about the Canal Park in Delphi, Indiana. Dan distributed copies of the new brochure to members of the commission.

Division of Historic Preservation & Archeology sent a copy of a letter sent to the Federal Highway Administration about the replacement of Rangeline Road bridge over the Wabash River in Huntington County.

Other items

Dale Brier has a draft copy of the commission newsletter. He would appreciate updates on addresses or telephone numbers. The new appointments will also be included in the newsletter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dan McCain invited everyone to the Winterfest, February 16th, at Delphi from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday March 6th, 2002 at Indiana Government Center South. The meeting will be at 1 PM in Conference Room 4.

ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Janet Fawley. Seconded by Ken Einselen. Motion passed.